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GIANT BOOKSTORE MAY HAVE A BUYER

Places of Learning could be sold

By Susan G. Strother

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. has a prospective buyer for the former Places of Learning bookstore and surrounding acreage at Interstate 4 and Westwood Boulevard.

The 22.5-acre tract, which is near Sea World in south Orange County, was included in Anheuser-Busch's \$1.1 billion purchase of six theme parks and land holdings of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., an Orlando textbook publisher. HBJ sold the properties, which in Central Florida included Sea World, Cypress Gardens and Boardwalk and Baseball, in order to pay down some of its debt. In January, Boardwalk and Baseball was closed.

An Anheuser-Busch spokesman would not reveal the name of the prospective buyer, but said the company would likely have a contract signed within 60 days. The buyer first must obtain financing and determine whether the land is suitable for its plans.

The property is zoned tourist-commercial.

Vicki Pearlman, a spokesman for Anheuser-Busch in St. Louis, said there are 25 Sea World corporate employees in the 30,000-square-foot building.

Places of Learning, which included an 1-acre map of the United States that people could walk on, was an elaborate bookstore operated by HBJ. It opened in 1985 after HBJ purchased the Stars Hall of Fame wax museum for \$3 million and then closed it.

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